

IN HONOR OF FRANK THOMPSON

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2008

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Frank Thompson, who passed away last week. Thompson served as a code talker in World War II. He and other Navajo soldiers used their native language to craft a nearly unbreakable code. We don't know how many American soldiers survived that war because of Thompson's gift, nor do we know how many civilians were liberated because Thompson and his fellow code talkers helped America achieve success. What we do know is that Thompson and others like him are owed a debt of gratitude we will never fully pay back.

With all of the injustice that Native Americans have experienced at the hands of the U.S. Government, they have always given their all to defend this country. When Thompson joined the Marine Corps, the U.S. Government had only recognized Indians as American citizens for 18 years. Yet 45,000 of the 350,000 Native Americans in this country joined Thompson in America's Armed Forces during that conflict. Native Americans have the highest rate of service of any ethnic group, and today there are more than 181,000 Native American veterans.

The code talkers brought unique skills and a unique cultural heritage to the Allied cause in World War II. As Americans who faced bigotry and injustice, they eagerly signed up to free Europe from oppression. As individuals who had lived with the legacy of aggression against their people, they felt keenly the need to prevent other acts of aggression, even if these acts were being perpetrated on the other side of the world. In a sense, the Allied fight against tyranny was as much a Navajo struggle as a European one. The values of the Navajo soldiers played a crucial role in liberating Europe and Asia.

Code talkers like Frank Thompson showed that courage has no color. Our respect for their service is increased by our recognition that they risked everything for a nation that too often failed to show them the same loyalty. Their actions should remind us that when we treat any group of Americans as second class citizens we dishonor the memory of all those brave soldiers who died to defend American values, including that sacred creed that "all men are created equal."

By recognizing those who have bravely served this country, we encourage ourselves to be just a little bit better. We remind ourselves to celebrate the values that make America a beacon of hope to men and women around the world. Today, I recognize Frank Thompson. His heroism has won him immortality. For his service and his sacrifice, he will live forever in our hearts.

RECOGNIZING THE HEALTHY LAKES, HEALTHY LIVES CAMPAIGN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Healthy Lakes, Healthy Lives tour. The Healthy Lakes, Healthy Lives tour, organized by the Healing our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition, is designed to raise awareness and call for action on the problems facing our lakes. Healing Our Waters is lead by the National Wildlife Federation and the National Parks Conservation Association and includes over 100 fishing, boating hunting, birding, conservation and environmental organizations. I would like to congratulate them for their continuing work to improve the health of the Great Lakes.

To start the historic tour, the *Earth Voyager*, one of the fastest sailing vessels on the Great Lakes, made its first stop in Buffalo, New York at the newly developed site along the historic Erie Canal. As a main water route to the mid-West the Great Lakes shaped the demographics of our nation. When the Erie Canal first opened in 1825 it connected the East to the Great Lakes and brought a surge in population and commerce which lead Buffalo to incorporate as a city in 1832. Buffalo's strategic position on the Great Lakes contributed significantly to its early rise to prominence; at the turn of the last century Buffalo was America's largest inland port and the leader in the transshipment of grain and several other commodities. The Western New York Division of Citizens Campaign for the Environment helped lead coordination of events during the *Earth Voyager's* 5 day stop in Buffalo, NY.

Containing over twenty percent of the world's fresh water, the Great Lakes are an enormous natural asset to this nation. Nearly two centuries ago the Lakes shaped this nation by providing for the early movement of settlers and commerce in America. Now we are at a critical point in history where we must take action today to protect and preserve the Great Lakes as a means to shape this nation's environmental and economic future.

The ship departs Buffalo, NY for stops in Erie, PA, Toledo, OH, Detroit MI, Port Huron MI, Sarnia, Ontario, Chicago, IL, Traverse City, MI, Grand Haven, MI, Milwaukee, WI, Bay City MI, Cleveland, OH and Rochester, NY. On its tour, the *Earth Voyager* will help carry our message and emphasize the importance of revitalizing the Great Lakes.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL
BRUCE F. TUXILL**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Major General Bruce F. Tuxill, Adjutant General for the State of Maryland. After graduating in 1967 from Salem College in West Virginia with a bachelor's degree in business administration, General Tuxill underwent undergraduate pilot train-

ing at Williams Air Force Base in Arizona. For the next fourteen years, General Tuxill rose through the ranks at the Martin State Airport in Maryland. From 1994 until 2000, he served as the assistant adjutant general for air, Headquarters, Maryland Air National Guard in Baltimore. He then served as the Air National Guard assistant to the Commander of the United States Air Forces Europe in Germany until he was appointed Adjutant General for the State of Maryland in 2003.

In his role as Adjutant General, General Tuxill was responsible for formulating, developing and coordinating all policies, programs, and plans affecting more than nine thousand men and women in Maryland's military department. The military department includes the Maryland Army National Guard, Maryland Air National Guard, Maryland Emergency Management Agency and the Maryland Defense Force. In the event of mobilization, if the state were to receive a presidential call to duty in times of war, national emergency, or operational contingency, General Tuxill would exercise command responsibilities and provide a force in readiness. As the Adjutant General, he served as the official liaison between the governor and the National Guard Bureau, and served as a member of the governor's cabinet.

Among his countless awards and decorations, General Tuxill has earned the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Combat Readiness Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, State of Maryland Distinguished Service Cross, Meritorious Service Cross, and Commendation Medal.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Major General Bruce Tuxill in his retirement from the position of Adjutant General for the State of Maryland. His legacy as an experienced and capable military leader and his service to the State of Maryland will be forever remembered. It is with great pride that I congratulate General Tuxill on his exemplary military career and his outstanding leadership of Maryland's military department.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I have been out on medical leave. I have been unable to cast votes; however, I would like the record to reflect my intentions had I been present to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 387, I would have voted "aye." Had I been present for rollcall No. 386, I would have voted "aye." Had I been present for rollcall No. 385, I would have voted "nay." Had I been present for rollcall No. 384, I would have voted "nay." Had I been present for rollcall No. 383, I would have voted "aye." Had I been present for rollcall No. 382, I would have voted "aye." Had I been present for rollcall No. 381, I would have voted "aye." Had I been present for rollcall No. 380, I would have voted "aye." Had I been present for rollcall No. 379, I would have voted "aye." Had I been present for rollcall No. 378, I would have voted "nay." Had I been present for rollcall No. 377, I